

AGENDA
CANTON BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2007
GARDEN CENTER BUILDING
4:00 P.M.

Reading of the minutes of the December 6, 2006 regular meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Received and filed - Thank you card from Master Gardeners of Stark County
2. City Council Informal Resolution supporting the idea of a Tree Commission
3. Coming Together Stark County requesting the use of Stadium Park and the Garden Center on December 13, 2007 to hold their second annual "Winter Unity Walk."
4. Possible development of a Park System Mission Statement
5. Possible park locations for water park

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

JANUARY, 2007

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, January 10, 2007, at the Garden Center Building.

Present were: Mr. Andy Black, President; Ms. Marilyn Thomas Jones, Vice President; Mr. Lon Winberry, Member; and Mr. Douglas V. Perry, Director/Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.

Reading of the minutes of the December 6, 2006 regular meeting - A motion was made by A. Black to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2006 regular meeting as written. A second was made by M. Thomas Jones, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business discussed at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Received and filed - Thank you card from Master Gardeners of Stark County - The Board reviewed the card for the Park System's donation of wood chips for their Life Youth Program "Garden for Life" project.
2. City Council Informal Resolution supporting the idea of a Tree Commission - The Board discussed the Council Resolution. In response to Council's request that the Park Commission appoint designees to a committee to research, discuss, and recommend legislation for the creation of a Tree Commission, it was agreed that Mr. Lon Winberry and Director Perry would represent the Board on such a group. The Director will inform Council.
3. Coming Together Stark County requesting the use of Stadium Park and the Garden Center on December 13, 2007 to hold their second annual "Winter Unity Walk." - The Board reviewed the above request. A motion was then made by A. Black to grant tentative approval of the event. "Final" approval would be considered pending receipt of detail plans no later than the November meeting of the Board. Insurance would also be required. A second to the motion was provided by M. Thomas Jones, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Possible development of a Park System Mission Statement - The Director informed the Board that he every once in awhile receives a request for a Park Commission mission statement and that there has never been one.

The Director presented a proposed mission statement for the Board's consideration. After a brief discussion, a motion to adopt the submitted mission statement with the removal of two words was made by A. Black. A second to the motion was made by L. Winberry, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

The mission statement shall be as follows: "The Canton Board of Park Commissioners is committed to maintaining and conserving diverse park, recreation, and open space opportunities by providing for safe, adaptable, and environmentally conscience park areas."

5. Possible park locations for water park - The Director informed the Board that he had been asked by the Service Director for a recommendation for a park location should a proposed new water park be built in a park. The area needed would be one to two acres. The Director told the Board that after reviewing the parks, the location he would recommend at this point would be Waterworks Park. The Director also told the Board that he was not sure it could be built there due to the possibility that there may be flood plain issues.

Mr. Black asked if an area could be raised to prevent the occasional flooding in the park from covering a new facility. The Director said it would depend on the size of the area to be raised and current regulations.

Ms. Jones asked if there was a recommended second or third choice. The Director stated he did not feel there were too many areas in the parks that would have all the elements (central location, utilities, public transportation, one to two usable acres, and all the tie ins with existing facilities such as the McKinley, Discovery Zone, Scenic Train, County Trail, possible new large accessible play area, and the new Streetscape/City entry point improvements coming to Tuscarawas Street. In addition, Waterworks Park was historically the site of the Canton Water Department's pump house and fountain. This is a good connection to a new water park and possible theme.

This and other locations were discussed by the Board and Mr. Doug Foltz, Ms. Nadine Sawaya, and Councilmember Carbenia.

The Director offered his opinion that this facility should be ran by the Recreation Department.

The Director was instructed to see if regulations would allow for this facility to be built and could an area be raised. If there are no big road blocks, then to make the Waterworks recommendation to the Service Director.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. The Director gave the Board copies of two letters to the Editor from The Repository regarding the possible construction of a new fire station using parts of Playground D.

A discussion followed involving all the members of the Board and those attending the meeting about a possible location of a new fire station and the loss of park properties to development.

It was generally felt that the 25th & Cleveland location was not a good spot for several reasons, but specifically the loss of park property was not a good thing.

In the end, it was decided that the Board would send a letter to the Mayor and City Council with regard to the Board's concerns about park properties being viewed as development properties and the loss of valuable park properties.

2. Great Trail Girl Scouts requesting to use Arboretum Park from June 18 thru 22, 2007, to hold their annual "Summer Fun Days" day camp.

A motion to approve this request with an insurance requirement was made by A. Black. A second was made by M. Thomas Jones, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

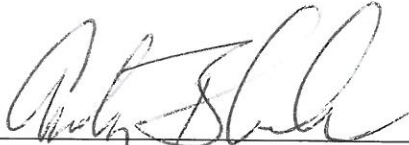
3. The Director brought to the attention of the Board a letter from the Ohio Amateur Softball Association. The Association had heard that we may be building a new softball complex, and they are interested in bringing a national tournament into Canton.

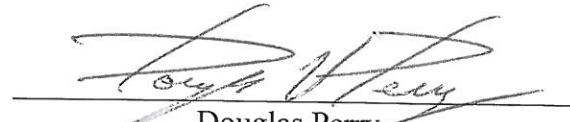
A discussion revolved around the needs of both the Park System and Recreation District's needs to be able to bring these kind of activities back to Canton. Possible new park areas and the need to get started on the Willig Field project were also discussed.

4. Received and filed thank you notes from the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce for the Park staff's assistance with the Light Up Downtown Event.

5. The Director reported to the Board that the "Holiday in the Park" displays were successful again this year. The Director stated he knew that the displays brought people into the City from Akron, Youngstown, and Brewster. He presented the Board with a City Council Resolution commending the Park Commission and Canton Joint Recreation District staffs for their work in creating and displaying the light displays.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.



Andy Black
President

Douglas Perry
Director/Secretary